

Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.

Mr. Sorrentino has led a staff of 95 engineering technical and clerical personnel responsible for the right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, geotechnical, survey, traffic and municipal service functions of PennDot District 6-0.

Throughout his long career with PennDot, Mr. Sorrentino has shown leadership and dedication as a structural designer in the highway design unit, as chief project manager in the Philadelphia interstate office, as district soils engineer, and as administrator of the project management unit. He has also played a key role in the design, community coordination, and implementation of such major area highways as I-95, I-76 rehabilitation, I-476 and I-676.

Mr. Sorrentino will retire from service to PennDot on January 13 to enjoy more time with his wife Martha and three sons: Frank Jr., David, and Brian. I applaud and thank him for his commitment to the Pennsylvania transportation system.

Further, I commend him for his ability, dedication and pursuit of excellence in public service upon his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DET. LT. DANIEL
PATERSON III OF THE FERN-
DALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Det. Lt. Daniel Paterson III of the Ferndale Police Department.

Lieutenant Paterson has devoted over 29 years of service to the people of Ferndale. These 29 years of service have been marked by numerous promotions, and 13 different awards and commendations. For the past 8 years he has directed the detective bureau of the department.

Mr. Speaker, I can attest to the excellence of the Ferndale Police Department, and I am certain Lieutenant Paterson played a role in making it so.

I am privileged to join his family, friends, and colleagues in thanking him for 29 years of service and wish him a restful and rewarding retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 448

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, arachnoiditis easily qualifies as a disease of the nineties. It has been described as "the greatest enigma in the field of spinal surgery" with few surgeons ever having seen it, and even fewer knowing how to treat it. In simple terms, arachnoiditis means inflammation of the arachnoid, and is characterized by chronic inflammation and thickening of the arachnoid matter, the middle of the three membranes that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord.

Arachnoiditis may develop up to several years after an episode of meningitis or subarachnoid hemorrhage—bleeding beneath the arachnoid. It may be a feature in diseases and disorders such as syphilis or it may result from trauma during a diagnostic procedure known as a myelogram. According to the Arachnoiditis Information and Support Network, more than 600,000 myelograms are performed in this country every year. Of the 12 million Americans who suffer from arachnoiditis, the cases resulting from myelograms could have been avoided.

In a myelogram, a radiopaque dye is injected into the spinal subarachnoid space. After the x-ray examination, as much of the oil as possible is withdrawn; however, a small amount is left behind and is slowly absorbed. Studies have implicated the iodized oil contrast medium, Pantopaque, in arachnoiditis. Water-soluble dyes such as Amipaque, Omipaque, and Isovue were once thought to be safer for use; however, recent evidence proves they also cause arachnoiditis. In fact, Harry Feffer, professor of orthopedic surgery at George Washington University states that patients who have had two or more myelograms stand a 50 percent chance of developing arachnoiditis. Numerous studies on animals have confirmed these findings.

Symptoms of arachnoiditis include chronic severe pain and a burning sensation which may attack the back, groin, leg, knee, or foot and can result in loss of movement to almost total disability. Other symptoms include bladder, bowel, thyroid, and sexual dysfunction, as well as headaches, epileptic seizures, blindness, and progressive spastic paralysis affecting the legs and arms.

In the past few years, arachnoiditis sufferers and Members of Congress alike have repeatedly asked the FDA to recall the use of Pantopaque. The FDA has clearly not reviewed the safety of oil-based Pantopaque as well as water-based dyes, in spite of medical evidence. As a result, I have introduced H.R. 448, a bill to ban myelograms involving the use of Pantopaque, Amipaque, Omipaque, or Isovue.

This legislation is not a new idea. Since 1990, Britain and Sweden have banned the use of Pantopaque in myelograms. In fact, a class action suit is still pending in Britain consisting of 25,000 people, 1,500 of which are nurses. In 1986, Kodak, the company that makes Pantopaque, voluntarily stopped distributing the drug in the United States due to public pressure. Pantopaque has a 5-year shelf life. The last batch was due to expire April 1, 1991. However, the use of Pantopaque has continued, with the most recent documented case in September 1993 and hospitals stocking the dye as recent as April 1994.

A large number of medical professionals do not know how to diagnose myelogram-related arachnoiditis, and when they do, they cannot treat it. Medical journals and case studies from around the world document the connection between radiopaque dyes and arachnoiditis. Despite this document, the medical profession as a whole has not been effectively enforced and still persists in its use. Moreover, the lack of information prevents the physician from recognizing the disease or side effects of the residual dyes after the fact. The time has come for thorough research to study this painful, disabling condition. H.R. 448 will direct the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and

Stroke to estimate the number of Americans suffering from myelogram-related arachnoiditis and determine the extent of this relationship.

Every year, chronic back pain is responsible for billions of dollars in lost revenues and millions more in health care costs. The American Journal reports that chronic low-back pain is estimated to cost \$16 billion annually in the United States. Occupational research finds that back injuries, pain and complications cost an average of \$15,000 per incident. According to "The Power of Pain," by Shirley Kraus, 100 million Americans are either permanently disabled or are less productive due to back pain. Those who do work lose about 5 work days per year, a productivity loss of \$55 billion. Interestingly enough, these figures only refer to chronic back pain patients. Almost all arachnoiditis sufferers eventually become totally disabled, becoming permanent fixtures on the rolls of Social Security, disability, welfare, and Medicaid.

Arachnoiditis sufferers want to become functioning, contributing members of society again. H.R. 448 will provide research for treatments for arachnoiditis sufferers, including treatments to manage pain. Pain-management treatments would enable sufferers to once again become active, working members of society.

It's time to protect unsuspecting Americans from this debilitating and preventable condition. I ask Members of Congress to join me by cosponsoring H.R. 448.

SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO
EASTERN LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, Edward V. Ecker, Sr. of Montauk, Long Island, NY, a community in my congressional district, continues to live the classic American dream in his very full life, and so it is with pleasure that we honor him for his ongoing and outstanding service and commitment to the east end. Mr. Ecker's list of accomplishments and friends reads like a Who's Who: from his youth to the present.

Mr. Eckert, a graduate of Montauk School, went on to be a star athlete at East Hampton High School and later attended Syracuse University on a football scholarship. After a tour of duty with the Army in the Korean war, he came home and worked as a probation officer. His gregarious, loving nature has held him in good stead throughout the years as a very popular elected official and recognized political pro.

As an East Hampton town supervisor and town councilman, he was the youngest in New York State. In addition he was the commissioner of jurors and the deputy commissioner of Suffolk County parks.

When his lifelong friend, Perry B. Duryea, Jr. ran for the State Assembly in 1960 and was elected speaker in 1969—the last Republican speaker of that body—Eddie Ecker was a key strategist and top advisor.

Currently he is assistant deputy commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections and is a Republican committeeman, having once been the Republican town leader.